

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

NSC-05 EB-07 ERDE-00 NRC-05 /101 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3901

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 5454

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

REF: USNATO 5394 DTG 031535Z OCT 75

1. THE SPC ON OCTOBER 6 RETURNED TO THE DISCUSSION ON THE SERVICE SUB-CEILINGS ISSUE (REFTEL)
2. THE BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) DISAGREED WITH THE US PAPER, SAYING HE DID NOT SEE HOW THE ALLIES COULD ARRIVE AT THEIR MAIN TARGET, WHICH IS TO REACH APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES, WITHOUT ESTABLISHING AN EXPLICIT SUB-CEILING ON GROUND FORCES. HE ALSO COULD NOT ACCEPT THE IDEA OF EXPRESSING THE FLEXIBILITY MARGIN AS A PERCENTAGE; PERCENTAGE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO TOO MUCH FLUCTUATION DEPENDING ON DATA. HE PREFERRED SET FIGURE OF ABOUT 20,000.
3. THE US REP (MOORE) POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE US APPROACH, SECRET

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THE COMBINED COMMON CEILING COULD BE SET AT A LEVEL WHICH, IN THE ABSENCE OF REDUCTIONS IN AIR FORCE MANPOWER, WOULD NECESSARILY RESULT IN REDUCTIONS AND APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE COMBINED COMMON CEILING WERE SET

AT 920,000 UNDER PRESENT DATA AND DEFINITIONS THE RESULTING GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS WOULD RESULT IN APPROXIMATE PARITY AT A GROUND FORCE LEVEL OF 712,000, WHICH WOULD BE WITHIN THE APPROXIMATELY TEN PERCENT REDUCTIONS LEVEL SET EARLIER BY SHAPE. THE TEN PERCENT FLEXIBILITY MARGIN WOULD THEN PROVIDE A NARROW RANGE FOR FUTURE ALLIED RESTRUCTURING NEEDS.

4. THE ANADIAN REP (BARTLEMAN) POINTED TO PARA 22 OF THE WG STUDY ON SERVICE SUB-CEILINGS WHICH SHOWS THAT EVEN WITHOUT EXPLICIT SUB-CEILINGS, A DE FACTO SUB-CEILING WILL RESULT. THE UK REP (BALIES) AGREED. THE ALLIES WILL SPECIFY THE NUMBER OF GROUND FORCES THAT WILL HAVE TO BE REDUCED. THE UK CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE WP TO MAINTAIN AN OPTIMUM FORCE MIX TO MEET MILITARY REQUIREMENTS REMAINS THE MOST PRACTICAL CONSTRAINT AGAINST AIR REDUCTIONS IN FAVOR OF GROUND FORCES.

5. THE BELGIAN REP SAID THAT IF THE ALLIES SPECIFY THE NUMBER OF REDUCTIONS IN GROUND FORCES, IT WOULD BE A CHANGE IN THE ALLIED POSITION: UNTIL NOW, THE ALLIES HAVE ONLY TALKED ABOUT ESTABLISHING A COMMON CEILING.

6. THE US REP POINTED OUT THAT ALLIES HAVE CONSISTENTLY PRESSED THE EAST FOR AN EXCHANGE OF DATA, AND US HAS PREVIOUSLY MADE CLEAR IN SPC THAT ONE KIND OF DATA ON WHICH WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH OTHER SIDE IS ON THE REDUCTIONS TAKEN.

7. THE FRG REP (HOYNCK) FELT THAT NON-EXPLICIT SUB-CEILINGS LEAD TO PLAYING WITH FIGURES, WHICH IN TURN DETRACTS FROM THE CONCEPT OF APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES. THE ALLIES MUST MAINTAIN AT LEAST A COMMON CEILING ON GROUND FORCES. STREATOR

SECRET

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